

HAM RAG



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In the Rockford area at <http://w9axd.com>

— January is membership renewal time. —

DECEMBER 2005

Presidents Corner - DECEMBER 2005

Another year draws to a close. You have participated in many many events. To those of you who have, the Board and membership give you a big round of applause and Thank You. To our new hams and/or members WELCOME!

We all have our special group of friends and this is good. However we each need to extend the hand of sharing our knowledge with others. If we don't, then we may well be the LAST generation of amateur radio hobbyists. It's too easy for us to stay in our comfort zone. You may have to do just that in the work world to protect your job. But by doing so we don't grow. Ham radio gives us the opportunity to "stick our neck out" and smell the roses or the stink weed. We only learn the difference by sniffing! This past year has been a real success in that most every one of you has stepped forward when asked.

If I have a very real disappointment in 2005, it was with Field Day. Seventy five members providing only two volunteers to have Field Day is something we should be ashamed of. When one of those two became hospitalized, I couldn't come up with a replacement for him. He was the only one in the club that was hospitalized. Think about it!

We are now about to embark on a new year. Our hobby is between 91 and 93 years old. It was first allowed on the air by congress. We have a great responsibility to assure congress that their decision wasn't an incorrect one. Don't take ourselves so seriously. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president. I hope that I wasn't too much of a disappointment to you. Congratulations to the new officers of R.A.R.A. May 2006 bring you the satisfaction that you anticipated in October. When Shari N9SH asks for help next year, please raise your hand.

73 see ya next year!
Bill WB9MCZ

From the Desk of the Vice President....

I did what I could do, and I'm done. I feel we have had a decent year. That being said,... " I'm Tired." It is finished. The worries of this world, current economy, lack of job prospects, elmering, finding programs, hamming, contesting, building, being a new father, home schooling, etc., etc., etc. have taken its toll on me and my family. I'm beginning to see why all the male hams are called OM. I've also heard that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Now don't go putting the two together. I very much look forward to next year. But let me have one last say.

If we are to survive as Ham Radio Operators, there are few things we MUST do, or we might as well go ahead and hang up our hats. Get the word out! Any publicity is good publicity. Or at least that is what Hollywood says. Every one of us should find a new ham to elmer / mentor. Believe it or not, this is where we lose MOST of our hams. They can't figure something out, don't get any help, and says to heck with it. Lastly, we have to get past our pride, and continue to prove (Or BEGIN to prove) our value to the community. By being prepared, trained, and willing. Talk to the heads of ESDA, ARES, SATURN, and Red Cross, and simply ask what you can do to help. If we ALL strive towards this, Ham Radio will have a bright future. Otherwise we will disappear into a sleepy doldrums.

Respectfully Yours, Tim Peterson KC9DNN

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NEXT MEETING

Friday, December 9, 2005

The program for this month's meeting will be:

No program at this time

LOCATION

*St. Anthony Medical Center
5666 E. State Street
Rockford, IL*

To get to the meeting room go to the main entrance, turn right at the desk- go to the end of hall to the Meeting rooms.

Secretary's Report

RARA Club Meeting November 11, 12005

Meeting was called to order by President Bill WB9MCZ at 7:12 PM.

Secretary Report – The president asked if everyone read the minutes posted in the Ham Rag and asked if there were any corrections or omissions. None noted. Motion made by Chuck WB9UMC to accept minutes 2nd by Chuck AB9KA. All approved.

Treasurer's Report – Carl W9TQ read the treasurers report for the month of October as follows. There was income of \$70.99 (Dues \$52.50, Drawing \$5.00 snacks \$13.49). Expenses of \$85.19 (Telephone \$52.13, snacks \$33.06). Check book balance of \$174.81. Savings balance of \$4,143.52 for an ending cash on hand of \$4,318.33. This was \$220.16 less than last year at this time. Motion made by Dave W9MG to accept treasurer's report 2nd by Shari N9SH. All approved.

Guest and new club member Dave Colbler KC9IJN was in RVC class and just got his license.

Old Business

On the Waterfront – Still have not gotten check from OTW.

Committee updates – ATV – Gene WB9MMM reports that the repeater is up and people are on it.

Banquet – Sue KA9GNR gave report on all of the restaurants she has checked into. Decision was made to go to the Mayflower on North 2nd street. They gave the best deal for the money.

147.000 Repeater – The repeater has been down because of a problem. No action on the relocation.

New Business

Ham of the Year – Shari N9SH reported that the Ham of the Year selection committee will meet after the December club meeting to make the selection. Get your nominations in as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous – Rick K9PK hid a transmitter in the room transmitting on 146.43 for anyone to do a mini-foxhunt. I am not sure if anyone found it.

A motion was made by Shari N9SH to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dan KC9ATR at 7:40.

The program for the meeting was a video entitled “The Last Voice from Kuwait” a documentary from the ARRL regarding a Kuwaiti ham that was able to transmit information during the 1990 Kuwait war.

Submitted by Gene KA9BOD, acting secretary.

Mid-West Associated Industrial Electronic's Closes its doors

During the noon hour, on October 26th, the door was permanently locked at 225 S. 6th St. Mid-West Associated Industrial Electronics had been a thriving cable and component supermarket spanning several decades. For those of us working in the field of electronics, or involved with hobbyist projects, Mid-West was always the reliable source. Many will remember the names like George, Larry, Andy, Armore, Howard, Leslie, Dick, and Trina, who for years, searched for our tubes & transistors, diodes & IC's and connectors & capacitors. No doubt, they collectively spooled-off enough cable, to reach the moon and beyond. The end of an era, who knows? It may be too soon to say what will become of the building, or it's inventory. But, we HAVE found Andy. Happy to continue serving your electronic needs, from Jay-Tronics, Inc. at 124 N. Rockton Ave. And I'm sure they're glad he's there.

Chuck-AB9KA

R.A.R.A. Annual Awards Banquet 2006

Saturday January 14, 2006 **Richard's Mayflower** 5040 N. 2nd Street Loves Park, IL.

Cocktail Hr. 6:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00 p.m.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE TAX & TIP

Items are a la carte

~~~~~ **Entrees** ~~~~~

Filet Mignon Medera 10 oz. \$21.30  
Grilled beef tenderloin medallions, smothered with wild mushrooms, shallots, and fresh garlic in a Madera wine sauce. Served over a garlic crouton, with garlic mashed potatoes.

Ciappino \$20.10  
A combination of prawns, mussels, crab, sea bass, clams, scallops in a fresh tomato broth. Served over linguini pasta.

Cornish game hen \$15.10  
Whole hen served over a bed of wild rice dressing with a hint of sage flavor.

Spinach Wrap \$11.30  
Baked spinach wrapped in phyllo

~~~~~ **Salads** ~~~~~

Tossed Salad or Cottage Cheese w/ peach \$4.40

~~~~~ **Desserts** ~~~~~

Nougatina \$5.00  
Almond flavored cake with custard filling

Sugar Free Ice Cream \$3.10

Coffee included with meal, all other beverages are cash.

**Reservations must be in to Sue with payment by Jan 3, 2006**

**Call 654-9590 – Fax 654-1660 – E-Mail [KA9GNR@arrl.net](mailto:KA9GNR@arrl.net) – Mail to Sue Peters 8312 Tetterhall Lane – Machesney Park, IL 61115**

**Make checks payable to R.A.R.A.**

----- CUT AND RETURN to Sue with payment -----

**Banquet Order Form** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Entrée</u>                 | <u>Price/Per</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Amount \$</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Filet Mignon                  | \$21.30          |                 |                  |
| Ciappino                      | \$20.10          |                 |                  |
| Cornish Hen                   | \$15.10          |                 |                  |
| Spinach Wrap                  | \$11.30          |                 |                  |
| Tossed Salad                  | \$4.40           |                 |                  |
| Cottage Cheese w/Peach        | \$4.40           |                 |                  |
| Nougatina                     | \$5.00           |                 |                  |
| Sugar Free Ice Cream          | \$3.10           |                 |                  |
| <b>Total Amt. Enclosed \$</b> |                  |                 | _____            |

## SCHEDULED DXPEDITIONS

By Gary - K9LJN

| <b>CALLSIGN</b> | <b>QTH</b> | <b>WHEN</b>          | <b>QSL VIA</b> |
|-----------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|
| S79WU           | SEYCHELLES | NOW TO DEC 4         | F6HWU          |
| A52CDX          | BHUTAN     | NOW TO DEC 5         | F9DK           |
| TX0P            | MAYOTTE    | NOW TO DEC 7         | F6AUS          |
| 4S7PAG          | SRI LANKA  | NOW TO DEC 16        | F5PAC          |
| 5H1CM           | TANZANIA   | NOW TO DEC 18        | DL7CM          |
| 9H3MR           | MALTA      | NOW TO DEC 21        | IK1PMR         |
| HS0T            | THAILAND   | NOW TO DEC 31        | HS6NDK         |
| HS0ZFI          | THAILAND   | NOW TO DEC 31        | SM5GMZ         |
| VQ9OG           | CHAGOS     | NOW TO DEC 31        | W9ROG          |
| VK0JLX          | ANTARCTICA | NOW TO DEC 1, 2006   | VK2JLX         |
|                 |            |                      |                |
| V5/IK1RAE       | NAMIBIA    | DEC 11 – 22          | IK1RAE         |
| 6W/HA7TM        | SENEGAL    | DEC 15 – 22          | HA7TM          |
| V63O            | MICRONESIA | DEC 28 – 31          | JK1FNL         |
| XU7ADI          | CAMBODIA   | JAN 6 TO MAR 6, 2006 | SM5GMZ         |

**Note:** Sources for this column include the 425DXN, ARRL, NG3K and NJDXA websi

## AMATEUR RADIO EXAM NOTICE

November 19th there was 1 applicant resulting in 1 new license.

**Christopher Warner** Technician

Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners will be holding the next Amateur Radio exam session in Rockford, IL on Saturday, December 17, 2005.

Location: St. Anthony Hospital  
5666 E. State Street  
Rockford, IL

Exams will be held in the St Francis Room (just right of the front entrance after you enter).

Check-in is from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM.

What You Need To Bring To A W5YI-VEC Session

1. Your original Amateur License (unexpired or within the 2 year grace period) and a copy to attach to the paperwork.
2. Any valid CSCE that you are using for credit. Again the VE's have to see the original and have a copy to attach to the paperwork.
3. Two forms of Identification with your signature on them. One must be a picture ID (drivers license, passport, school ID, library card, credit card, etc.)
4. Test Fee \$14.00 cash or check. (please make checks payable to W5YI-VEC)

Contact Information  
Randy Scott, W9HL  
W9HL@arrl.net 815-877-4328

## Musings on Batteries

There seems to be a fair amount of interest in rechargeable batteries lately. The interest revolves around the inability of the manufacturers to keep up with the current demands needed by the various equipment makers. Even the wire services have had articles concerning the problem. (Chicago Tribune about a month ago)

Supposedly Nokia is delaying their latest phone offering because there is no battery available to power it properly. The demand "on" time can't be met. Battery chemical systems used today are mostly old technology. The carbon zinc D cell was invented in 1898 while the Nickel Cadmium (NiCad) battery was invented in 1896. The first NiCad was very expensive and leaked. Its practical use was delayed 50 years while the leakage and cost problems were over come.

Battery makers have tweaked and tweaked over the years however today's systems need a major break through and none seem to be on the horizon. The possible answer may be mini fuel cells which are a few years off.

In spite of these elemental issues there has been some additions to rechargeable battery offerings that may be of interest to HAMS who use loose AA batteries, particularly Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) types. The batteries are now available in current ratings up to 2500 MAH. In addition some lesser current models can be recharged much faster, in some cases 15 minutes.

I drove around Rockford to check on what was available and for what price. I found Menards and Lowes to have the best selection. I have also seen NiMH batteries for a good price at Woodmans.

There are different chargers offered that include batteries. One that interested me was the universal model made by Energizer. It charged AAA, AA, C, and D. In addition they had a model for use in your car.

I encourage you to read the information on the package carefully. Note where they are made before making your purchase. As far as I am concerned made in Japan trumps anything from China.

Having sold various brands of batteries for 25 years I am partial to the Energizer and Duracell brand. I have seen just about all brands leak, so check them regularly.

73's Dick KC9BCB

## Technician & General Classes Scheduled for Spring 2006

RVC has approved the dates for the spring 2006 ham classes. The classed will be held at the following dates:

Technician Class 3/18/06 and 3/25/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

General Class 4/22/ 06 and 4/29/06 from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Carl W9TQ

**Its time to renew your membership**

**Please ensue that we have your current email address**

Do you have a question about radio? Call Scott, WB9LHU Earth Works 965-9841

### Items for sale

**YAESU FT107M.** All mode, has WARC bands, solid state, with remote VFO. Call AB9AY Mike at 399-0961 for all details.

### I have the following antennas for sale...

Cushcraft: 2mtr- ringo, several 3-5 element beams, 17 element boomer, & 6mtr boomer both 34' beams, others; 2mtr & 440 satellite beams.

Klm... 2-2mtr beams, 1-440 beam.

Hy-gain g-5 (or6) base ground plane

Comet 6-2-440 ground plane

440 hand held- Radio shack/ Icom

Box full of medium duty rotors.

Call Dennis N9XKH 624-2837 for all details.

### NEW FEATURE ON THE 146.61 REPEATER

Starting Monday September 12, Brad WW9WWW will host the ARRL AUDIO NEWS on the 146.61 repeater **after** the completion of the 8 PM net which is hosted by Diane WB9VLK.

*Responses to the Audio News will be re-evaluated at the November RARA board meeting to determine if it should be continued. Please forward your comments to Brad whose email address is WW9WWW@yahoo.com or any RARA Board Member.*

### **\*\*\* HELP \*\*\***

If you would like to have something published, please call me or email me at ka9bod@arrl.net.

**Cut-off for the January 2006 issue will be Friday December 23, 2005.**

Gene KA9BOD, Editor

### RARA Repeaters

|                             |          |       |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------|
| 146.610 -                   | pl 114.8 | W9AXD |
| 147.000 +                   | pl 114.8 | W9AXD |
| 223.8800 -                  | pl none  | W9AXD |
| ATV input 1250 Mhz/ 434 Mhz |          | W9ATN |
| output 421.25 Mhz           |          |       |

### **2006 RARA Officers and Board** **(Elected October 14, 2005)**

President—Shari Harlan, N9SH

Vice President — Kurt Eversol, KE9NJ

Secretary — Colleen Peterson, KC9EWJ

Treasurer — Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors:

Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Newsletter — Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD

Web Master — Paul Franklin, K9RNR

### **RARA Officers and Directors - 2005**

President – Bill Peters, WB9MCZ

Vice President – Tim Peterson, KC9DNN

Secretary – Nicholas Lager, KB9SKW

Treasurer – Carl Cacciatore, W9TQ

Directors: Dan Hunt, KC9ATR

Gene Harlan, WB9MMM

Scott Allshouse, W9SBA

Wendy Owano, KC9BCF

Newsletter—Gene Stankiewicz, KA9BOD

Web Master—Paul Franklin, K9RNR

### **FRIDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

Meets every Friday morning from 8 am until about 9:30 am at the **Morning Glory Restaurant**, 408 7th St, Rockford  
An informal gathering of ham folks, no affiliations necessary, good food and good company. Everyone is welcome to attend.

# HAM OF THE YEAR---2005 NOMINATION

The Ham of the Year is an honor that is presented to the R.A.R.A. member who has contributed the most to the club and to amateur radio in general during the year. This year the selection will be made by a committee established to evaluate the nominations of deserving candidates from those submitted by club members.

Your nominee should be chosen using two basic criteria: The nominee must be a R.A.R.A. member and should have performed exemplary service for amateur radio during the year 2005.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out the form below, or a facsimile, completing all of the requested information. Nominations may be mailed to N9SH at the address below or handed to her at the next club meeting. All nominations must be received by **December 9, 2005.** They will remain confidential. Your participation and early response will be appreciated.

Mail nominations to:  
Shari Harlan, N9SH  
5931 Alma Drive  
Rockford, IL. 61108  
N9sh@hampubs.com

## LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT FORM

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Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

I nominate the above person for the RARA Ham of the Year-2005 award for the following reasons:

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_



P.O. Box 8465, Rockford, IL 61126

Email: [ka9bod@arrl.net](mailto:ka9bod@arrl.net)

Web: [www.w9axd.com](http://www.w9axd.com)

| <u>Nets</u>   |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Monday 8PM    | 2 Meter 146.610 - 114.8 |
| Thursday 7 PM | ARES 147.195 + 114.8    |
| Thursday 8 PM | SATURN 146.610 - 114.8  |

place address label here

# DECEMBER 2005

January is membership renewal time

## ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Single Adult: \$25.00 Adult w/Family: \$30.00  
 Single Senior: \$15.00 Senior w/Family: \$20  
 Student: \$15.00

Above rate includes the RARA monthly newsletter, Ham Rag, via email.

Ham Rag Via U.S. Postal Service: \$12.00 extra

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_

Radio Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

ROCKFORD AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
 P.O. BOX 8465  
 ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61126